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January 15, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 140 – December 2018
Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

## (a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

#### Meetings/Conference Calls

- On December 6, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS).
- On December 11, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to review the status of the Bioaccumulation (Food Web) Model (FWM) calibration.
- On December 12, Region 2, NJDEP and CPG FS Subcommittee held a teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On December 13, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On December 19, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On December 19, Region 2, NJDEP and CPG FS Subcommittee held a teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.

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 On December 28, the CPG and EPA discussed in a telephone call RI/FS tasks that should continue during the partial government shutdown.

#### Correspondence

- On December 3, CPG shipped a hard drive of the input/output files of the updated runs for the Contaminant Fate and Transport (CFT) Model to Region 2.
- On December 4, Region 2 provided a revised memorandum regarding Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) for the Upper 9-Mile IR to CPG.
- On December 4, Region 2 and NJDEP provided comments on the Draft FS Work Plan (FSWP) Addendum for the Upper 9-Mile IR to CPG.
- On December 4, Region 2 requested additional modeling documentation from CPG.
- On December 11, CPG uploaded a revised Draft of Appendix J and Attachment 1 to Appendix O of the revised Draft 17-Mile Remedial Investigation (RI) Report to the EPA SharePoint site.
- On December 6, CPG provided comments on the draft November 13 IR FS Meeting minutes and no comments on the draft November 29 IR FS Meeting minutes.
- On December 12, Region 2 requested the calibration sensitivity run inputs and outputs for the CFT Model from CPG.
- On December 12, CPG responded to Region 2 that another hard drive would be sent to Region 2 containing the calibration sensitivity run inputs and outputs for the CFT Model.
- On December 12. CPG submitted revised Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Addendum documents to Region 2.
- On December 14, CPG notified Region 2 that the power curve analysis and associated work for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS presentation on December 19 would be provided to Region 2 and NJDEP on December 17.
- On December 14, CPG provided a memorandum discussing Comment 6 of the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report received from Region 2 on May 30, 2018 to Region 2.
- On December 17, Region 2 asked CPG about the status of Appendix P to the 2012 River Mile (RM) 10.9 Characterization Report.
- On December 17, CPG delivered the November Monthly Progress Report to Region 2
- On December 17, Region 2 provided CPG comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Executive Summary and Section 11.
- On December 17, Region 2 provided approval for the revised Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum to CPG.
- On December 17, Region 2 provided responses to comments received from CPG on October 4, 2018 on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Section 7 and Appendix L.
- On December 18, CPG provided responses to comments on the Upper 9-Mile IR FSWP Addendum to Region 2.
- On December 18, CPG provided the power curve analysis for the December 19 IR FS Meeting to Region 2.
- On December 18, CPG and Region 2 exchanged emails regarding the proposed coverage in the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey.

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- On December 19, Region 2 distributed the Action Items from the December 19 IR FS Meeting to CPG.
- On December 19, CPG uploaded Appendix P form the 2012 RM 10.9 Characterization Report to EPA's SharePoint site.
- On December 20, Region 2 provided comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Section 6 and Appendices M and N to CPG.
- On December 20, CPG provided comments on the draft December 13 IR FS Meeting minutes to Region 2.
- On December 21, Region 2 submitted questions to CPG regarding the December 11, 2018 teleconference on the FWM calibration status.
- On December 21, CPG provided presentation materials from the December 11, 2018 FWM teleconference including updated steady-state and dynamic model inputs to Region 2.
- On December 21, CPG shipped a hard drive to Region 2 containing requested inputs and outputs for the calibration sensitivity runs for the CFT Model.
- On December 26, CPG provided comparisons of surface bed concentrations over the long-term calibration period for the CFT Model to Region 2.
- On December 29, Region 2 provided CPG comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report Appendices G, H, and I.
- On December 29, CPG provided responses to Region 2 and NJDEP comments on the Draft IR FSWP Addendum to Region 2.
- On December 31, Region 2 provided notification to CPG that it was furloughed due to a lapse in appropriations and direction for continuing work and contact with the USACE.

#### Work

- CPG participated in weekly IR FS Meetings with Region 2 and NJDEP and provided requested meeting materials.
- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG revised the Upper 9-Mile IR FS Work Plan.
- CPG revised the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum.
- CPG responded to Region 2 requests for CFT Model documentation.
- CPG will continue to support the review of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model calibration.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.

#### (b) Results of Sampling and Tests

None.

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### (c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will continue to support HDR's review of the calibration of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- Following resolution of the partial government shutdown, CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 and NJDEP to prepare the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy FS Addendum.
- CPG has scheduled the Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Survey to start on January 19 weather conditions permitting.

# (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>

- An extended EPA furlough (> 4 to 6 weeks) is likely to have an adverse impact on the initiation of critical path tasks such as model projection runs and delay the completion of the IR FS in CY 2019. Region 2 has provided a list of tasks that the CPG will work on during January and February.
- Other Documents Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter
CPG Project Coordinator

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cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

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